

6th April 2013

Solstices

Hello,

I wish to evoke in this article through the annual phenomenon of the two **solstices** an illustration of the **principle of opposites** .

The winter solstice, i.e. the shortest days of the year, is around *December 21/22* , and the summer solstice, i.e. the longest days of the year. year around *June 20/21* .

Since the oldest times these two periods have been celebrated. At the height of winter the dead God rises again. And , these two periods of the year represent two opposites in a way in the calendar .

In addition, we can notice that the life of Christ is framed by two characters who have the same first name : **Saint John the Baptist** , the cousin of Christ and **Saint John the Evangelist** , "the beloved apostle " .

The Christian tradition celebrates Saint John the Baptist in the summer, precisely on June 24, that is to say just after the summer solstice. This festival is accompanied in the peasant tradition by large purifying fires . VShe popular fires of Saint John have burned in our countryside for many generations, and it is around their flames that young people have perceived the omens of love.

Saint John the Evangelist is celebrated just after the winter solstice , Christmas and the birth of Christ, on December 27.

It is therefore not by chance that the two Christian festivals are superimposed on ancient naturalist festivals. Their sacred characters are in fact combined and reinforced.



[http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-LV95trltg8/US_Q1IMNCXI/AAAAAAAAACt0/4AgHGeZUIJ0/s1600/Saint+Jean+et+jean+Baptiste+-+Jacopo+del+Fiore+-+Venise+-+XIV+%C2%B0+si%C3%A8cle.jpg]

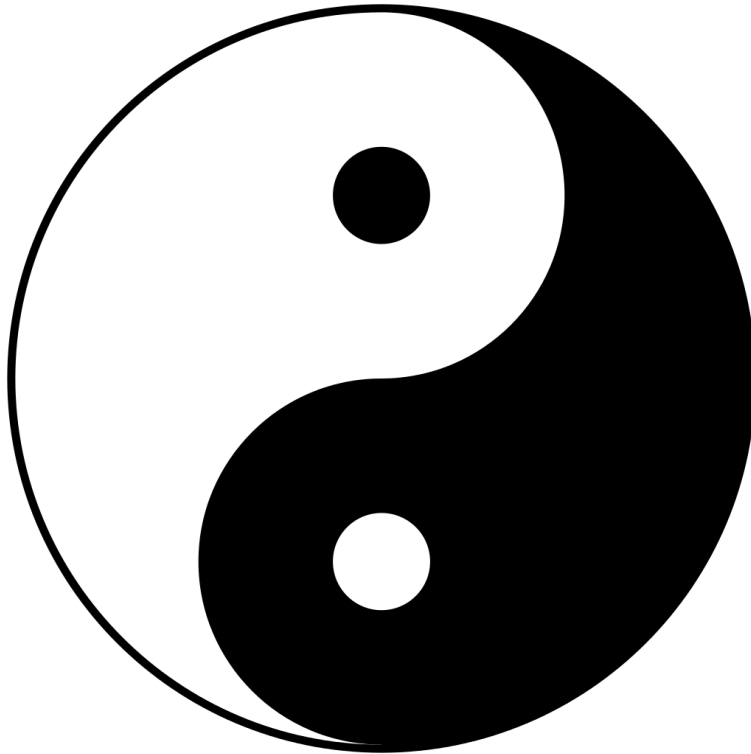
"Saint John and Jean the Baptist" - Jacopo del Fiore - Venice - XIV ° century

The winter solstice announces that the days will grow again . Even if we are still in the middle of winter, in a certain way light , life, warmth and renewal are announced with the lengthening of the days . The end of the winter solstice is therefore the pledge of hope , the return to full light.

During the **summer solstice** it is the opposite phenomenon . While we are in the beautiful days, the summer solstice announces the decline of light and the return to darkness.

It's a bit like the night that is announced as soon as the sun in the middle of the day has passed the zenith. Indeed , and even if we do not realize it, the night begins as soon as the hour of noon in a certain way has passed by one minute!

We find this principle of cycle and meeting of opposites in the symbol of **Yin and Yang** of Chinese Taoism:



[<http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-wkijrOj3PVI/VEoFYnT1NDI/AAAAAAAAIRw/4hhpy0Vqr3Q/s1600/Yin%2BYang.png>]

Dans les évangiles **Jean Baptiste**, cousin du **Christ**, est le prophète qui annonce la venue du Messie. Il dit "*Il faut qu'il croisse et que je diminue*" (Jean III : 22-36).

Traditionnellement Jean Baptiste est représenté avec une apparence assez fruste. C'est un personnage sec et brûlant qui vit dans les déserts calcinés. Vêtu d'une simple peau de mouton il est souvent représenté pieds nus dans les eaux du Jourdain.

D'autre part, même si Jean Baptiste mène une vie d'ascèse « *caché dans le désert* », *se nourrissant de « sauterelles et de miel sauvage »* (Matthieu III:4) il est souvent représenté physiquement assez costaud avec des bras puissants et un visage aux traits graves. Malgré cette allure physiquement imposante, l'animal qui représente allégoriquement Jean Baptiste est un **agneau**, animal symboliquement doux. Il meurt décapité.

Jean Baptiste est un prophète qui annonce le Christ, c'est à dire la lumière.

Voici maintenant une récréation avec le poème de **Stéphane Mallarmé** :

"Cantique de saint Jean"

*Le soleil que sa halte
Surnaturelle exalte
Aussitôt redescend
Incandescent*

*Je sens comme aux vertèbres
S'éployer des ténèbres
Toutes dans un frisson
A l'unisson*

*Et ma tête surgie
Solitaire vigie
Dans les vois triomphaux
De cette faux*

*Comme rupture franche
Plutôt refoule ou tranche
Les anciens désaccords
Avec le corps*

*Qu'elle de jeûnes ivres
S'opiniâtre à suivre
En quelque bond hagard
Son pur regard*

*Là-haut où la froidure
Éternelle n'endure
Que vous le surpassiez
Tous ô glaciers*

*Mais selon un baptême
Illuminated by the same
Principle that elected me
Bend a greeting.*



[[http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-SzaAC0LJwZE/US_UF4HNX6I/AAAAAAAAACuE/Geq4eeCBxC4/s1600/Saint+Jean+Baptiste.jpg)

[SzaAC0LJwZE/US_UF4HNX6I/AAAAAAAAACuE/Geq4eeCBxC4/s1600/Saint+Jean+Baptiste.jpg](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-SzaAC0LJwZE/US_UF4HNX6I/AAAAAAAAACuE/Geq4eeCBxC4/s1600/Saint+Jean+Baptiste.jpg)]

John the Evangelist is traditionally depicted in a much finer fashion, often with elegant attire . As opposed, John the Evangelist has a beautiful physical appearance . He is young and he emerges from the sweetness of his person. Paradoxically, the animal that represents him allegorically is an **eagle** , that is to say a powerful animal.

John the Evangelist announces darkness then light.



[[http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-Rqu6phLZuN8/VGZPgWMnVil/AAAAAAAAIag/ThjEtvRuhJc/s1600/Saint%2BJean%2B-%2BD%C3%A9tail%2Bde%2Bla%2Bmosa%C3%AFque%2Bde%2Bla%2Bconque%2Babsidiale%2Bde%2Bla%2Bcath%C3%A9drale%2Bde%2BPise%2B-%2B1301.jpeg)

[Rqu6phLZuN8/VGZPgWMnVil/AAAAAAAAIag/ThjEtvRuhJc/s1600/Saint%2BJean%2B-%2BD%C3%A9tail%2Bde%2Bla%2Bmosa%C3%AFque%2Bde%2Bla%2Bconque%2Babsidiale%2Bde%2Bla%2Bcath%C3%A9drale%2Bde%2BPise%2B-%2B1301.jpeg](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-Rqu6phLZuN8/VGZPgWMnVil/AAAAAAAAIag/ThjEtvRuhJc/s1600/Saint%2BJean%2B-%2BD%C3%A9tail%2Bde%2Bla%2Bmosa%C3%AFque%2Bde%2Bla%2Bconque%2Babsidiale%2Bde%2Bla%2Bcath%C3%A9drale%2Bde%2BPise%2B-%2B1301.jpeg)]

Saint Jean

Detail of the mosaic of the apsidal conch of the cathedral of Pisa - 1301

Il y a donc un vrai contraste entre les deux Jean. Leurs apparences, leurs caractères, leur destin ou la place que chacun a est tout autre dans l'évangile c'est à dire "la bonne nouvelle".

Both frame the life of Christ. One clearly announces his coming and slips away, if I may say so, at the coming of the Messiah . The other opens to the new light that the incarnated word brings.

What is amusing is to notice that **their two festivals** are linked indefinitely in **the cycle of the solstices** as if what opposes them over time is exchanged .

Just as Christ is a symbol of the Self, the two Johns associated with the two solstices represent totality.



[http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-6sysUOBikiA/US_RU1tSxEI/AAAAAAAAACT8/dPt1yN3kKA/s1600/Saint+Jean+et+jean+Baptiste+-+maison-bellone_03.jpg]

"Saint John and J ean the Baptist" - M aison B ellon e

Dans la basilique Sainte Marie des Anges de Rome nous pouvons observer au sol une grande ligne méridienne. Cette ligne fut conçue par l'astronome et mathématicien **Francesco Bianchini** au début du XVIII^e siècle. Il s'agit d'un cadran solaire commandé par l'église pour permet de déterminer avec grande précision les dates de la liturgie chrétienne.

Voici quelques photographies de la basilique Sainte Marie des Anges de Rome :

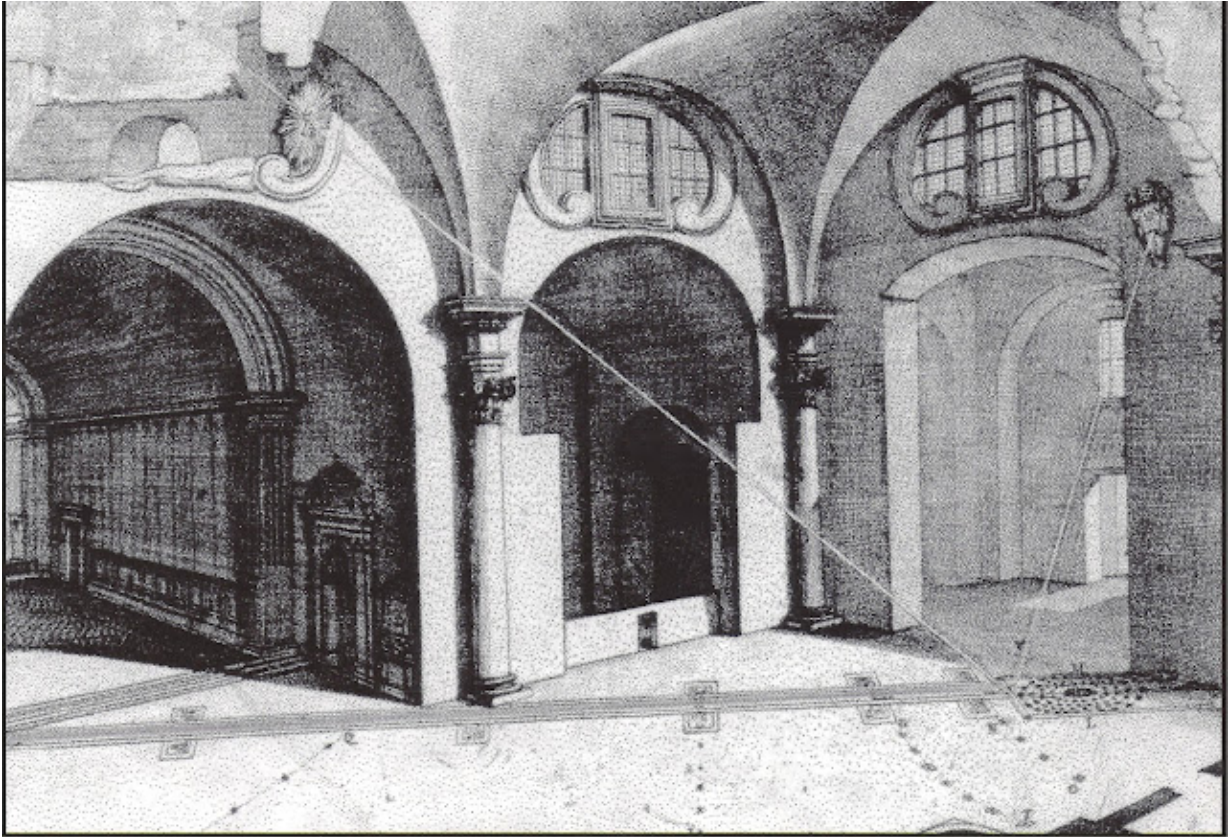


[<http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-G4EnG6Vy1Y8/UL-iaPal1UI/AAAAAAAAACc8/A6DfYu2l98Q/s1600/Basilique+Sainte+Marie+-+Rome+16.JPG>]



[http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-RQisl_F4i9Y/UL-hvBx_ail/AAAAAAAAACcw/z2rlJn5Z0tE/s1600/Basilique+Saint+Marie+--+Rome+--+9.JPG]

Here is below the great meridian line on the ground of the basilica:



[<http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-O9wvmxewzQ/UL-suBd-CjI/AAAAAAAAACeU/mg0XonNtA2M/s1600/Basilique+de+Sainte+Marie+-+Rome+-+1.jpeg>]

Meridian line of the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels - Rome

Let's look at the image above:

We have an overview of the meridian line built on the meridian that crosses Rome at the longitude of $12^{\circ}50'$. Notice in the wall of the building the two holes which allow with the passage of light to determine with precision the date of the day.

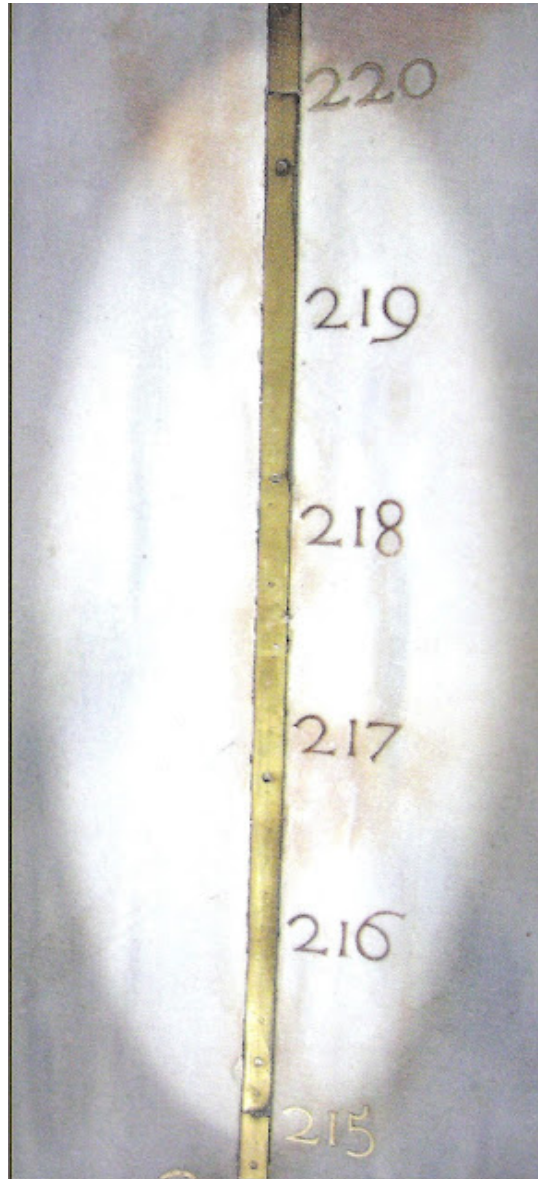


[<http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-ndpcUKrnccQ/UL-swP7O5GI/AAAAAAAAACec/1esEa9yA6Sw/s1600/Basilique+de+Sainte+Marie+-+Rome+-+2.jpeg>]

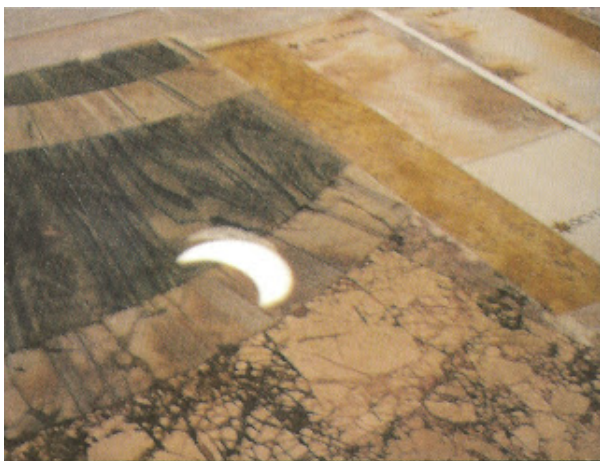
Below are some other photographs of the interior of the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Rome:



[<http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-uAK8IPkUNd4/UOBsrYotif/AAAAAAAAACj8/MhFXQiZk-Vg/s1600/Basilique+Sainte+Marie+-+Rome+21.jpg>]



[http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-52OcMwsUnSk/UOBjphAvCol/AAAAAAAAACgk/ADiU_LFR3GI/s1600/Basilique+de+Sainte+Marie+-+Rome+-+3.jpeg]



[http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-OBOCHFzMxk/UOBj6wowFPI/AAAAAAAAACgs/EMz6zK_-GSA/s1600/Basilique+de+Sainte+Marie+-+Rome+-+4.jpeg]



[<http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-wNw-q0Tjnqc/UOBkLr4B7qI/AAAAAAAAACg0/q96lQzJtrjM/s1600/Basilique+de+Sainte+Marie+-+Rome+-+5.jpeg>]



[<http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-BISphwKEVky/UOBsGVB5aGI/AAAAAAAAACjk/SDOqMQ0P-9Q/s1600/Basilique+de+Sainte+Marie+-+Rome+-+7.jpg>]



[http://3.bp.blogspot.com/--HuxEuHtgCA/UOBsOQDa4ml/AAAAAAAAACjs/_4_3TAeuhYQ/s1600/Basilique+de+Sainte+Marie+-+Rome+-+6.jpg]

I now come to what is indicated in the center of the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Rome. On the ground we can the symbol photographed below . We have already encountered this symbol several times. (See article **Mercury (3)** [<http://aqua-permanens.blogspot.fr/2011/01/la-table-demeraude.html>] , **Alchemical Kabbalah (1)** [<http://aqua-permanens.blogspot.fr/2012/02/kabbale-alchimique-1.html>])



[http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-nXu_gV590JU/UOBwXTJKn8I/AAAAAAAAACmg/J56gTY0ZRrQ/s1600/Basilique+Sainte+Marie++Rome+15.JPG]

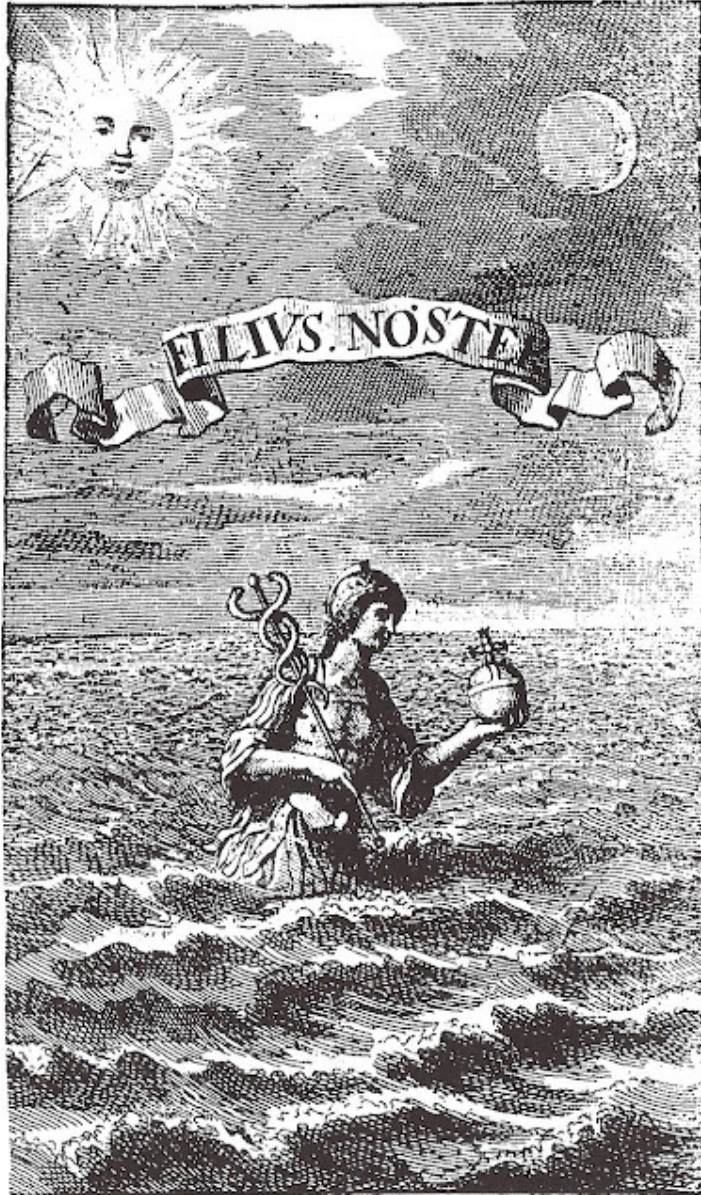
We see a globe surmounted by a cross. The whole represents "the Totality", "the universe", the "All", the "Self". This symbol that we find in many alchemical treatises represents the opposites, for example what is evolved and what still has a primitive or archaic character.

The Globe represents Matter, and the Cross illustrates Spirit. We could also evoke the Eros and the Logos... (see table below for other examples of opposites)

Notice here that under the globe there is a fire which cooks the whole, that is to say that the whole is in the process of unification, of realization.

<p>Sky Aware Sun Evolved</p>	<p>Earth Unconscious Moon Primitive</p>
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Apollo	Diana
Volatile	Fixed
King	Queen
Logos	Eros
Light	Matter
Male	Feminine
Asset	Passive
Extroversion	Introversion
Horizontal	Vertical
High	Down
To come down	To go up



[<http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-vKMwJsMr1kU/UWAS8Bt2jZI/AAAAAAAAAC5I/anh847pk99o/s1600/A34+--+L%27eau+mercurielle-2.jpg>]

"Mercurial Water"

(Excerpt from the treatise of Baro Urbigerus - Hamburg 1705)

Let's observe the image above: Mercury comes out of the water (So from the unconscious here) He was born from the conjunction of opposites (represented here by the Sun and the Moon) He is *Filius Noster* , "Our Son". He is represented by the Greek God with a human figure, it is to that he is accessible to a humanity (closer to the conscious in a way)

Mercury holds in his left hand "The Universe" represented by the Globe (Matter) surmounted by a Cross (Spirit) In his right hand *the entwined serpents of the caduceus* . This last symbol represents the double cosmic spiral of the agreement of the opposites (Heaven / Earth, Light / Matter, Conscious / Unconscious, ...) It is the symbol of the hermetic Mercury and of the long *life* .



[[http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-OvCXmNIUXPo/UWASr5Dsicl/AAAAAAAAAC5A/WE8iJWmby6w/s1600/A34+++.JPG)

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Miraculous Medal Church

Paris - bac street



[http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-5SLNImrnN6A/UWAUAMnq38I/AAAAAAAAAC5Q/LDjPqSEUUnU/s1600/P1080102_modifi%C3%A9-1_edTMP-1.JPG]

Church of St. Louis of the French - Rome

The symbols of the **Self** or of the Totality express on the one hand its material and universal nature but also on the other hand the structure of the consciousness which can perceive them.

The two Johns (John the Baptist and John the Evangelist), the cycles of the solstices, the zodiac with these twelve signs, the globe surmounted by the Cross are all representations of the Self.

It is through the confrontation with the Self, or should I say with the principle of opposites that little by little the process of individuation is revealed, that is to say that the being is realized.

The shadow parts give way to the underlying light.

The light, or liberated energy, establishes a link between the soul and the "I".

The soul is declined in different aspects according to the need for realization of the center, of the "Self", or according to the gaze and the attention of the "Me" (We will come back to this ...)

The "Me" must be strengthened in order on the one hand to distinguish itself from the "Self" (individuation) and but also on the other hand to be able to abandon oneself to it, to "God" (Read on this subject **Four Functions**)

[<http://aqua-permanens.blogspot.fr/2012/04/quatre-fonctions.html>]

Ultimately, the soul always remains a "quantity" to be realized .



[<http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-YtlksOifNxl/UOBtCOlvual/AAAAAAAAACKe/OE1agZdID4Q/s1600/Les+12+signes+du+Zodiaque++Mus%C3%A9e+de+Cluny+++Paris.jpeg>]

*The wheel of the universe with the twelve signs of the Zodiac
Cluny Museum - Paris*



[<http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-rvsOICRrmfk/UOBv-iHD1ul/AAAAAAAAACmY/hDRdBVn3u88/s1600/Basilique+Saint+Marie+-+Rome+-+11.JPG>]

The organ

Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Rome



[http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-1hWdf0ZnQ_4/UOBxJsONOsI/AAAAAAAAACms/WEZ-rhtDako/s1600/Le+Monde+vu+de+Dieu.jpeg]



[http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-v7WQYQDNor4/UU3o2IVTGnI/AAAAAAAAAC3k/wxmezCnkt6U/s1600/P1120112_edTMP-1.JPG]

Zodiac - Cancer

Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Rome



[http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-NBvepBTyh5I/UU3oh2BXIII/AAAAAAAAAC3g/pHjNZ5Gf0hk/s1600/P1120111_modifi%25C3%25A9-1.JPG]

Zodiac - The Lion

Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Rome



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Zodiac - the Virgin
Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Rome



[http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-0hN8_dQO_IE/UU3pJDNZOpl/AAAAAAAAAC30/skzkOW7_eZo/s1600/P1120109_modifi%C3%A9-1.JPG]

Zodiac- Libra

Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Rome



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Zodiac - Scorpio
Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Rome



[<http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-L1fSltxXEw/UOBvenPBozI/AAAAAAAAACmQ/oYW6GGbS2k4/s1600/Basilique+Sainte+Marie+-+Rome+14.JPG>]

Zodiac - Sagittarius
Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Rome



[http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-S1pgZF3sX4Q/UU3pv_WMSyl/AAAAAAAAAC4Q/9ChSrlCHyPw/s1600/P1120117_modifi%25C3%25A9-1.JPG]

Zodiac - Capricorn
Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Rome



[http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-ljsmpTAbKDw/UU3qqjZq-SI/AAAAAAAC4U/VdNMPrQqahw/s1600/P1120118_modifi%C3%A9-1.JPG]

Zodiac - Aquarius

Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Rome



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Zodiac - Pisces

Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Rome



[http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-s9ZSa_1Koks/UU3oR1IN5tI/AAAAAAAAAC3Y/trEteJuvww8/s1600/P1120107_modifi%25C3%25A9-1.JPG]

Zodiac - Aries

Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Rome



[http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-c_0kATYi5XM/UU3rBJJ3wTI/AAAAAAAAAC4c/-h2D-MPPmyk/s1600/P1120106_modifi%C3%A9-1.JPG]

Zodiac - Taurus

Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Rome



[http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-DsT1pdof6AM/UWAcObxRrXI/AAAAAAAAAC5g/RiywZRnLJpE/s1600/Basilique++Les+G%C3%A9meaux_modifi%C3%A9-1.JPG]

Zodiac - Gemini

Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Rome



[<http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-Nkk-en5Af38/UOBzO9RD0il/AAAAAAAAACpY/0dyWABEIMpk/s1600/Mandala+Zodiaque+--+XVI.jpg>]



[http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-JOF51rF7EZ8/UOBzgy1InCI/AAAAAAAAACpo/FcTB5-4za_c/s1600/Mandala+Zodiaque+-+XVII.jpg]

Thank you for reading
Good Magisterium!

Posted 6th April 2013 by [L'alchimiste](#)



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